

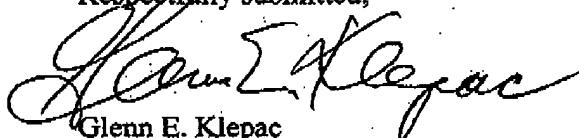
Remarks

Applicant's attorney thanks the Examiner for discussing the amendment briefly with him on the telephone on November 1, 2005. As discussed on the phone, Claim 1 was amended to state that the liquid control trough in the pour spout of the invention is "imperforate". This amendment is supported by at least Figures 1, 5, and 11 of the drawings which show that the liquid control trough 20 does not contain any openings so that the present amendment introduces no "new matter" into the application.

Amended claim 1 distinguishes applicants' invention from Pool U.S. Patent 4,240,568 because the straining element 167 described in Pool's Figure 16 and in cols. 8 and 9 is formed with multiple openings. The specification describes the straining element as having a "foraminous" section 168 (col. 8, line 60). It would not be "obvious" to modify Pool's straining element to be imperforate as required in amended claim 1 because such modification would destroy Pool's intended function of "removing solid masses and other contaminates from the liquid ... during pouring" (col. 8, lines 56-58).

If the Examiner would like to suggest additional changes of a formal nature to place the application in better condition a telephone call to applicants' undersigned attorney will be appreciated. Applicants request early notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



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[Transmitted by facsimile to 571 273-8300, on November 2, 2005]